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Following is a summary of an article entitled "Television Enterprise in the Soviet Union" by Chi Ta-chi, appearing in the May 1956 issue of "Kwang-po Ai-hao-chu" (Broadcast Fans), a Peking publication.

(Summary)

Visitors to Moscow are impressed by a 160-meter cone-type tower on which the antenna for the Moscow television station is mounted. The tower was built in 1922 for use by the first broadcasting station in the Soviet Union.

Television is making wide-spread and rapid development in the Soviet Union. At present there are 12 television stations in the country located at Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov, Tallinn, Riga, Omsk, Gorkiy, Sverdlovsk, Minsk, Vladivostok, and Tomsk. In addition television stations are under construction at Kuibyshev and Tbilisi. By the end of 1956, twenty-two television stations will be in operation in the Soviet Union. There are approximately 1,000,000 television receivers in the Soviet Union.

Television programs consist of plays, concerts, movies, and other entertainment, social and political subjects, scientific features, physical culture features, sports events, children's programs, etc. Domestic and foreign news-reels are also televised. There are some on-the-spot telecasts of theater performances, circus, and sports events. Films depicting the life and art of China and the other People's Democracies are often shown. Scientists in the Soviet Union recently designed a camera for underwater use which will bring fish and other aquatic animals and sea-bottom vistas to the television screen. On 14 February, the Moscow television station started a second program, given twice weekly, so that the audience can select its favorite programs.

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Television stations in the Soviet Union are stressing programs for children. These are carried mostly on Sundays and holidays, but a regular 20 minute daily program is scheduled before the transmission for adults. Children's programs are playing an important role in promoting the morality and prestige of Communism. Through them children's interest in scientific and cultural knowledge is being cultivated. Children's programs consist of stories about the lives and achievements of laboring heroes, scientists, writers, poets, composers, and actors. These programs are also scheduled to carry travel pictures that will show the vast and boundless areas of the fatherland in order to develop an ardent love in children for the Soviet fatherland. Nursery stories, cartoons, and puppet shows are also welcomed by Soviet children.

The National Curious Museum in Moscow recently established the first public television theater in the Soviet Union with a screen three meters high and four meters wide. The Soviet government is planning to establish similar television theaters for agricultural communities, sanatoriums, and residential areas.

The sixth Five-Year Plan provided for the establishment of links between Moscow, Leningrad, republic capitals, and other major cities for the purpose of improving television relays. The number of television stations must be increased to 75 by 1960 and 250 television relay stations must be established in the coming two or three years. In that period color television will also begin regular transmissions. The production of television receivers will be increased from 1,000,000 to 8,000,000 in the coming two or three years. In order to transmit programs over long distances so that people in the border areas will be able to enjoy television programs, Soviet scientists and technicians plan to install television transmitters in airplanes and helicopters.

Soviet radio specialists are also planning to improve the production of television receivers. They plan to replace vacuum tubes with semi-conductors. They also plan to place receivers in small cabinets rather than large ones. These sets will have only an on-off switch and two knobs for controlling sound volume and picture clarity. This simplified design has met the need for the production of portable television receivers. Also Soviet radio specialists are planning to increase the size of the picture screen, are working on color television, and testing three-dimensional television.

Television stations in the Soviet Union not only constantly exchange programs within the Union but they also exchange programs with all People's Democracies in Europe. Recently they have started to exchange programs with the United States and Great Britain.

Television in the Soviet Union is not only regarded as a cultural and educational tool, but it is playing an increasingly important role in national economy and national defense. Because of the importance placed on television by the Communist party and government of the Soviet Union and because of the work of scientists and radio amateurs, television in the Soviet Union has a great future.

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